

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 01999 141334Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
/084 W

-----020177 151434Z /43

R 131458Z JUL 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2506
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PDEV IZ CU
SUBJ: CUBAN POLITBURO MEMBER VISITS IRAQ

1. GRANMA, JULY 12, ANNOUNCES DEPARTURE FOR BAGHDAD OF POLITBURO MEMBER PEDRO MIRET TO ATTEND CELEBRATIONS OF TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF IRAQI REVOLUTION. GRANMA MENTIONS THAT MIRET VISIT IS AT INVITATION OF IRAQI GOVERNMENT. (MIRET IS ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION JOSE LOPEZ MORENO AND ERNESTO GOMEZ ABASCAL OF CP CENTRAL COMMITTEE STAFF.)

2. BEGIN COMMENT: MIRET COMES FROM THE PRE-REVOLUTIONARY 26 OF JULY MOVEMENT, NOT PRO-MOSCOW PSP COMMUNIST PARTY-A CHOICE THAT MAY BE RELATED TO CURRENT PROBLEMS OF IRAQI COMMUNISTS. (CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, WHO HAS CARRIED ON PREVIOUS CUBAN TALKS WITH IRAQ THIS YEAR WAS ASSOCIATED WITH PSP.) CUBAN DISPATCH OF POLITBURO MEMBER TO IRAQ (ALBEIT NOT ONE OF MOST PROMINENT) IS PRESUMABLY INTENDED TO UNDERLINE THAT HAVANA'S RELATIONS WITH IRAQ HAVE NOT DETERIORATED DRASTICALLY, DESPITE REPORTED EXECUTION OF COMMUNISTS IN IRAQI ARMY. WE NOTE ALSO
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THAT IRAQI AMBASSADOR HERE, ANWAR S.A. ALARACHAD, HAS SOUGHT TO PLAY DOWN PROBLEMS IN IRAQ BETWEEN BAATH PARTY AND COMMUNISTS.

3. BUT, AT SAME TIME, THERE ARE SOME POSSIBLE SIGNS OF TENSION BETWEEN IRAQ AND CUBA - PRESUMABLY FLOWING FROM EITHER IRAQI SUPPORT OF ERITREANS OR BAATH PRESSURE ON

COMMUNISTS. CELEBRATION HERE IN HAVANA OF IRAQI REVOLUTION,
FOR EXAMPLE, HELD UNDER AUSPICES OF CUBAN-ARAB
FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, WAS ATTENDED ONLY BY SOCIETY PRESIDENT
AND MINISTER OF TRANSPORT LUSSON (WHO IS NOT A POLITBURO
MEMBER). PDRY COUP, WHICH HAS BEEN WELCOMED BY CUBAN MEDIA, ALSO
HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY AL-RACHAD TO A WESTERN COLLEAGUE.
END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS, ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HAVANA01999
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780290-1267
Format: TEL
From: HAVANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780765/aaaaccwn.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dbb97e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2024466
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN POLITBURO MEMBER VISITS IRAQ
TAGS: PDEV, OVIP, PEPR, IZ, CU, (MIRET, PEDRO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dbb97e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014